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(71) Applicant: SONY ELECTRONICS INC. [US/US]: 1 Sony Drive, Park Ridge, NY 07656 (US).

(72) Inventors: LUDTKE, Harold, A.; 3587 Townsquare Drive, San Jose, CA 95127 (US). FAIRMAN, Bruce; 275 Martinez Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (US). SMYERS, Scott, D.; Published 6170 Manusco Street, San Jose, CA 95120 (US).

(74) Agents: HAVERSTOCK, Thomas, B. et al.: Haverstock & Owens LLP, Suite 420, 260 Sheridan Avenue, Palo Alto. CA 94306 (US).

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With international search report

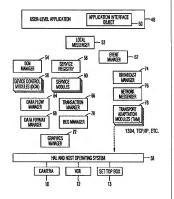
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(\$4) Title: MEDIA MANAGER FOR CONTROLLING AUTONOMOUS MEDIA DEVICES WITHIN A NETWORK ENVIRONMENT

#### (57) Abstract

A media manager provides data flow management and other services for client applications on devices coupled together within a network. Preferably, these devices are coupled together within an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network. A device control module is generated for each available device for providing an abstraction for all of the capabilities and requirements of the device including the appropriate control protocol, physical connections and connection capabilities for the device. The media manager also manages the flow and format of data transfers between the devices on the network. Through an interface, a user accesses the media manager and enters functions which are to be completed using the devices coupled together on the network. If the appropriate devices are available, the media manager controls and manages the completion of the requested task. If the appropriate devices are not available, but the required subdevices are available in multiple devices, the media manager forms a virtual device from subdevices in multiple devices in order to complete the requested task. Once the appropriate devices and subdevices are assigned to a task, the media manager determines if the data to be transmitted needs to be converted from one format into another format. If necessary, the media manager will also control the format conversion during the data transfer operation. The media manager also provides network enumeration and registry searching capabilities for client applications to find available services, physical devices and virtual devices.



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Interr nal Application No

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			PCT/US 99/	709490
A. CLASSII IPC 6	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER H04L12/40 H04L29/08 G06F13/00	)		
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C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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	figures 3,4 page 22, line 11-L page 23, line 24-45 page 24, column 2, line 8-16			
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χ Furt	ther documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent tamil	y members are listed	in annex
"A" docum consu 'E" earlier filling: "L" docum which chatic "O" docum other "P" docum later t	sent defining the general data of the set which is not dended to be of particular relevance cocument but published on or after the international data which may throw doubte on priority claims(s) or ent which may throw doubte on priority claims(s) or or or other special reason (set expection) when setting to an onal disclosure, use, enthellion or means ent published prior to be international fring date but man the priority desided in the published prior to the international fring date but man the priority deside claimed	cited to understa invention  X* document of parti- cannot be consis- involve an involve.  Y* document of parti- cannot be consi- document is con- ments, such con- in the art.  X* document membir	nd not in conflict with ind the principle or the cular relevance; the defending of the dered novel or cannotive step when the de- dered to involve an in- thined with one or in- nibination being obvious ar of the same patent	the application but over under the provided of the considered to be considered to courself is taken alone courself is taken alone claimed invention ventive size when the provided the provided of the course of
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realité ditu	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Risevijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Cichra		

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category \* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 457 446 A (YAMAMOTO YASUYUKI) 17.23 10 October 1995 (1995-10-10) Α abstract 1-16. 18-22. 24-30 figures 2.3 column 2, line 35-64 claim 1 CHEN W Y : "Emerging home digital Α 1-4.8. networking needs " 12-14 1997 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON 16-19. COMMUNITY NETWORKING PROCEEDINGS 22-26,30 11 - 12 September 1997, pages 7-12, XP002126574 Atlanta, USA the whole document 1-3,8, Α HOFFMAN G ET AL: "IEEE 1394: A UBIQUITOUS BUS" 12-14, DIGEST OF PAPERS OF THE COMPUTER SOCIETY 16-18. COMPUTER CONFERENCE (SPRING) 22-25.30 COMPCON.US.LOS ALAMITOS. IEEE COMP. SOC. vol. CONF. 40. 5 March 1995 (1995-03-05). page 334-338 XP000545446 ISBN: 0-7803-2657-1 the whole document WRIGHT M: "PRETENDERS, CONTENDERS, OR Α 1,2,8, LOCKS FOR UBIQUITOUS DESKTOP DEPLOYMENT?" 12.13. EDN ELECTRICAL DESIGN NEWS.US.CAHNERS 16-18, PUBLISHING CO. NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 22-24,30 vol. 41, no. 9, 25 April 1996 (1996-04-25), page 79-80.82.84.86 XP000592137 TSSN: 0012-7515 the whole document

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